

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 04652 312254Z
ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00
INR-10 SS-15 OIC-02 CIAE-00 EB-08 ICA-11 DODE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 NSAE-00 COME-00 L-03 DLOS-09 SOE-02
DOE-15 TRSE-00 PM-05 EPA-01 INT-05 PA-01 CEQ-01
DOTE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 SP-02 /174 W
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P 312047Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6160
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 04652

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, TGEN, SV, NZ
SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES: WASHINGTON
CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 200311

1. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCE, GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE HAS
INFORMED GNZ THAT IT IS RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE IN
WASHINGTON ANTARCTIC LIVING RESOURCES CONSULTATIONS,
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 18, 1978. GNZ PARIS EMBASSY HAS
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RECEIVED FRENCH AIDE MEMOIRE (PROBABLY CIRCULAR TO ALL
ANTARCTIC TREATY MEMBERS) ADVISING OF FOREGOING AND
SUGGESTING GOF'S PREFERENCE FOR A 1979 SESSION AT AN
UNSPECIFIED LOCATION. ACCORDING TO REPORT OF GNZ PARIS
EMBASSY, TRUE FRENCH PROBLEM WITH WASHINGTON CONSULTA-
TIONS IS ABSENCE OF TRANSLATION FACILITIES AND APPARENT
GOF BLANKET POLICY TO PROTECT FRENCH LANGUAGE BY REFUSING

TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES WHICH DO NOT PROVIDE FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES.

2. MFA SOURCE RAISED ISSUE OUT OF WHAT HE CALLED GNZ'S "VERY GRAVE CONCERN" FOR THE APPARENT "DRIFT" IN THE LIVING RESOURCES CONSULTATIONS. FRENCH ACTION, HE SAID, IS ONLY LATEST BUT NONETHELESS ONE OF MORE SERIOUS "MISCALCULATIONS" BY MEMBER STATES WITH RESPECT TO THE TIME AVAILABLE FOR RESOLUTION OF BOTH ANTARCTIC LIVING AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROBLEMS. HE SAID REST OF WORLD, INCLUDING SEVERAL WESTERN BASED LOBBYING GROUPS, ARE ALREADY KEENLY AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL RESOURCES OF THE ANTARCTIC AND ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY ALERT TO THE IMAGE OF DRIFT AND INDECISION WHICH THE TREATY STATES ARE PROJECTING.

3. ACCORDING TO GNZ PEKING EMBASSY, THE PRC HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN ANTARCTIC RESOURCES IN RECENT MONTHS, AND PARTICULARLY IN THE LACK OF PROGRESS AT THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING. THIS IS A SPECIAL CONCERN, HE SAID, SINCE PRC INTEREST WILL PROBABLY MEAN A HIGHER PROFILE FOR TREATY STATES NEGOTIATIONS AND THE INJECTION OF THE G-77 INTO THE EQUATION. THIS SEEMS INEVITABLE, HE ADDED, UNLESS THE TREATY STATES CAN ACT WITH GREATER DESPATCH. OBJECTIONS SUCH AS THAT APPARENTLY RAISED BY THE FRENCH ARE THEREFORE, IN HIS VIEW, SHORT-SIGHTED AND IRRESPONSIBLE.

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4. MFA IS PREPARING REPLY TO THE FRENCH WHICH WILL MAKE POINT THAT, IN GNZ'S VIEW, THE TIME AVAILABLE TO THE TREATY STATES TO DEAL RESPONSIBLY WITH THE LIVING AND NATURAL RESOURCES ISSUES, UNENCUMBERED BY THE DELAYS AND SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE G-77, IS FAST DISAPPEARING. GNZ WILL ADVISE FRENCH THAT IT IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER SESSION ON LIVING RESOURCES EVEN WITHOUT FRENCH PARTICIPATION.

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